

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/14916

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07C29/74 C07C31/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 711 743 A (ROQUETTE FRERES) 15 May 1996 (1996-05-15) cited in the application column 8, line 36 - line 54; example 1 -----	1-17
A	EP 1 095 925 A (ROQUETTE FRERES) 2 May 2001 (2001-05-02) paragraph '0020! -----	18, 19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

12.12.2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/EP 02/14916**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-17

Process for the preparation of sugar alcohol compositions

2. claims: 18,19

Sorbitol compositions

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/14916

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0711743	A	15-05-1996	FR 2726829 A1 AT 181723 T AU 700702 B2 AU 3772795 A BR 9505131 A CA 2162527 A1 CN 1130502 A ,B DE 69510520 D1 DE 69510520 T2 EP 0711743 A1 ES 2133692 T3 FI 955399 A HU 74979 A2 JP 8228719 A PL 311337 A1 US 5773604 A ZA 9509305 A	15-05-1996 15-07-1999 14-01-1999 16-05-1996 11-03-1997 11-05-1996 11-09-1996 05-08-1999 05-01-2000 15-05-1996 16-09-1999 11-05-1996 28-03-1997 10-09-1996 13-05-1996 30-06-1998 04-11-1996
EP 1095925	A	02-05-2001	FR 2800370 A1 AT 247615 T AU 6960700 A BR 0007264 A CA 2324117 A1 CN 1327439 T DE 60004620 D1 EP 1095925 A1 WO 0130731 A1 HU 0105095 A2 JP 2003512445 T NO 20012912 A PL 348525 A1 US 6417346 B1 ZA 200005942 A	04-05-2001 15-09-2003 03-05-2001 16-10-2001 28-04-2001 19-12-2001 25-09-2003 02-05-2001 03-05-2001 29-04-2002 02-04-2003 13-06-2001 03-06-2002 09-07-2002 20-04-2001